

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05811 061334Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3628

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5811

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG US
SUBJ: CONOCO NEGOTIATIONS ON SINAI PETROLEUM ACREAGE

REF: CAIRO 5559

1. CONOCO NEGOTIATORS HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY HAVE AGREED TO TWO-WEEK RECESS IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS FOR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION AGREEMENT WITH EGYPTIAN GENERAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR SINAI ACREAGE. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE EVIDENTLY REACHED DEADLOCK OVER SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND GUARANTEES WHICH CONOCO IS REQUESTING BEFORE ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT COVERING AREA IN SINAI, ALMOST 90 PERCENT OF WHICH IS IN BUFFER ZONE.

2. EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS FROM MINPET APPARENTLY REMAIN UNAWARE OF SPECIAL STATUS OF BUFFER ZONE. THEY ARE ONLY BEGINNING TO ACCEPT CONOCO'S PROTESTIONS THAT SPECIAL TREATMENT NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO CONOCO LEGAL COUNSEL.

3. INTERESTINGLY, EGPC AGREEMENTS DIRECTOR TELEPHONED EMBASSY APRIL 5 TO REQUEST URGENTLY MAP OF SINAI II DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT LINES. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT PREVIOUS FOREIGN OFFICE AND EGPC RENDERINGS OF SINAI II LINES GAVE DECEPTIVE PICTURE OF OVERLAP
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OF BUFFER ZONE WITH BOTH GULF AND CONOCO AGREEMENT AREAS.

4. COMMENT: REQUEST FOR MAP MAY BE INDICATION THAT EGPC BEGINNING TO ACCEPT FACT THAT BUFFER ZONE DOES PRESENT AMERICAN COMPANY WITH CERTAIN SPECIAL PROBLEMS.

MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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